

March 2014



March Topics

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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates

Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office

The Concord Center
10 Ferry Street, Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-223-6003

Fax: 603-223-6030

www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director:

Donna Juneau

donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov

603-223-6003

Program Technicians:

Melinda Marston

melinda.marston@nh.usda.gov

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Program

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

New Farm Bill Provides Permanent

Anne Helmers
anne.helmers@nh.usda.gov

Livestock Disaster Assistance

NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov
603-223-6003

NH Farm Loan Officers:

Lorna Wakefield
Rebecca Davis
William Wilson

NH Farm Loan Program Technician:

Sandra Carter

County Committee Members:

Martha Crete, Chair
Robert Potter Jr., Vice-Chair
William Hall Jr., Member
Eric Tenney, Member
Jane Presby, Member

Next County Committee

Meeting: March 21, 2014
at 10:00 am - USDA
Conference
Room 211

The 2014 Farm Bill, formally known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) permanent programs and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014.

As USDA begins implementing the livestock disaster assistance programs, producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters
- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Producers may have other questions. USDA is in the process of interpreting Farm Bill program regulations. Additional information will be provided once the enrollment period is announced. In the meantime, producers can review the [LIP and LFP Fact Sheets](#). Thank you for your patience as USDA works diligently to put Farm Bill programs into action to benefit the farmers and ranchers of rural America.

Attention Farm Loan Borrowers

There is a new state statute requiring the name on your photo identification (e.g., driver's license) match with the name used to file a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). This UCC is put into place when you request a loan from FSA and is renewed every 5 years. The UCC is a blanket lien taken against your chattels, equipment, etc. that you may have pledged for security.

If you are a borrower, the NH FSA Farm Loan Office is requesting that you send a copy of your photo identification to their office in Concord. Please mail a copy to: USDA/FSA, 10 Ferry St., Suite 212, Concord, NH 03301. If it is more convenient, you may stop by your local Farm Service Agency County Office. County Office Staff can copy your license and send directly to the Concord Office for you. You can also scan and fax a copy of your license to: 603-223-6030 or email the scanned document to sandra.carter@nh.usda.gov

Please submit a copy of your license to the NH Farm Loan Office no later than March 31, 2014.

2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 AND 2013 Average Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Review

The AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicates may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the AGI limitation of \$500,000 of nonfarm income, \$750,000 of farm income, \$1 million of conservation program benefits or the \$1 million total AGI, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the applicable limitation. The New Hampshire FSA State Office will begin notifying producers selected for review next month. If you have any questions about the review process or determination, please contact the NH FSA State Office at 603-224-7941. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office. Adverse determinations become administratively final if not timely appealed and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

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Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2014:

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 4.25%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing 2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher- 1.50%

Emergency Loan- 3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)- 2.125%

Dates to Remember:

March 21, 2014- County Committee Meeting (10 am in USDA conference room 211)
March 31, 2014 - Deadline for farm loan borrowers to submit copy of photo ID to FSA Office
April 18, 2014- County Committee Meeting (10 am in USDA conference room 211)
May 26, 2014 - Memorial Day Federal Holiday (Office Closed)
May 31, 2014 - Acreage reporting deadline for ornamental nurseries

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).